

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-45 (Cancelled).

46. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing L-amino acids, comprising:

culturing a recombinant ~~modified Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium for a time and under conditions suitable for producing L-amino acids, and

collecting the L-amino acids;

wherein the recombinant ~~modified Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium is modified to expresses-express a reduced level of the otsA gene product, which is a trehalose 6-phosphate synthase, compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium, or

~~wherein the recombinant modified Coryneform bacterium expresses a otsA gene product having reduced trehalose 6-phosphate synthase activity compared to the otsA gene product expressed in an unmodified Coryneform bacterium.~~

47. (Cancelled).

48. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 46 ~~Claim 47~~, wherein the otsA gene product is eliminated in the recombinant modified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

49. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 46, wherein the expression of the otsA gene product is reduced at least 5% compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

50. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 46, wherein the expression of the otsA gene product is reduced at least 10% compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

51. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 46, wherein the expression of the otsA gene product is reduced at least 25% compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

52. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 46, wherein the expression of the otsA gene product is reduced at least 50% compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

53. (Currently Amended) The process of ~~Claim 47~~ Claim 46, wherein the expression of the otsA gene product is reduced at least 75% compared to an unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

Claims 54-59 (Cancelled).

60. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 46, wherein said recombinant modified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium is *Corynebacterium glutamicum*.

61. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 46, wherein said recombinant modified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium is selected from the group consisting of *Corynebacterium acetoglutamicum* ~~acetooglutamicum~~, *Corynebacterium acetoacidophilum*, *Corynebacterium thermoaminogenes*, and *Brevibacterium flavum*.

62. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 46, wherein said recombinant modified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium is modified to express ~~further comprises an~~ increased amount of the products of one or more of the following coryneform genes compared to the unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium: dapA which codes for dihydrodipicolinate synthase, gap which codes for glyceraldehyde 3-phosphate dehydrogenase, eno which codes for enolase, tpi which codes for triose phosphate isomerase, pgk which codes for 3-phosphoglycerate kinase, zwf which codes for glucose 6-phosphate dehydrogenase, pyc which codes for pyruvate carboxylase, mgo which codes for malate-quinone oxidoreductase, lysC which codes for a feed-back resistant aspartate kinase, lysE which codes for a lysine export protein, and ~~zwf~~ zwf which codes for the Zwf protein.

63. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 62, wherein ~~the~~ nucleic acid molecules encoding a ~~dapA, gap, eno, tpi, pgk, zwf, pyc, mgo, lysC, lysE, and zwf~~ dapA, gap, eno, tpi, pgk, zwf, pyc, mgo, lysC, lysE, and zwf gene

product genes are overexpressed in the recombinant modified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium.

64. (Currently Amended) The process of Claim 46, wherein said recombinant ~~modified Coryneform coryneform~~ bacterium ~~further comprises~~ is modified to express a decreased amount of the products of one or more of the following coryneform genes compared to the unmodified ~~Coryneform~~ coryneform bacterium: pck gene codes for phosphoenol pyruvate carboxykinase, pgi which codes for glucose 6-phosphate isomerase, poxB which codes for pyruvate oxidase, zwa2 which codes for the Zwa2 protein, fda which codes for fructose 1,6-bisphosphate aldolase, hom which codes for homoserine dehydrogenase, thrB which codes for homoserine kinase and panD which codes for aspartate decarboxylase.

65. (Previously Presented) The process of Claim 46, wherein said otsA gene comprises a polynucleotide which hybridizes under stringent conditions to a complement of SEQ ID NO:1 and which encodes a protein having reduced trehalose 6-phosphate synthase activity compared to a protein encoded by SEQ ID NO:1, and wherein said stringent conditions comprise washing in 5X SSC at a temperature of 68°C.